

National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

IC 12-19 (red. 12-4-84)

November 28, 1984

Mr. Alan H. Watkins Director EROS Data Center U. S. Geological Survey Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57198

Dear Mr. Watkins:

On behalf of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), I am pleased to transmit to you the enclosed copy of the final report of the NCLIS Blue Ribbon Panel on Information Policy Implications of Archiving Satellite Data.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your valuable comments regarding the issues addressed by the Panel. Your advice helped the Panel to better understand the data archiving questions, and we are indeed grateful for your assistance.

In the process of advising the Department of Commerce on the archiving of data from commercially operated satellites, the Panel worked closely with Congressional staff and committees on legislation that permits the commercialization of Landsat. We were pleased that Section 602 of the "Land Remote Sensing Commercialization Act of 1984" incorporates many of the panel's suggestions.

If you would like additional copies of the report, please contact us on (202) 382-0840.

Sincerely,

Toni Carbo Bearman Executive Director

Attachment

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 14, 1984

Contact: Sarah G. Bishop

Deputy Director

NCLIS ISSUES REPORT ON SATELLITE DATA ARCHIVING POLICY

The published report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on the Information Policy Implications of Archiving Satellite Data has been released by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), a permanent, independent agency of the U.S. government. The 47-page report addresses the issues related to archiving of the nation's weather and land-sensing satellites, provides an overview of the needs of users of satellite data in both the public and private sectors, and summarizes the findings and recommendations of the panel.

The Blue Ribbon Panel was an outgrowth of a Presidential initiative directing the Secretary of Commerce to transfer to the private sector, by competitive means, the current operational civil remote sensing systems. In response to this initiative, the Secretary of Commerce established a Source Evaluation Board to prepare a request for proposals. Its chairman, Raymond G. Kammer, Jr., invited NCLIS to address the issues relevant to archiving of satellite data and to provide guidance on archiving requirements for potential bidders.

As the federal agency responsible for providing policy and planning advice to the Executive and Legislative Branches in the library/information field, NCLIS agreed to assist in this effort by assembling a distinguished panel of experts to consider the issues. Dr. Richard C. Atkinson, Chancellor of the University of California, San Diego, and former Director of the National Science Foundation, chaired the Blue Ribbon Panel. Serving as Vice Chairman was Emilio Q. Daddario, now with Hendrick and Lane, Attorneys-at-Law, and former Member, U.S. House of Representatives, past president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the first Director of the Office of Technology Assessment. A complete list of the panel members is attached.

The panel met twice between September and December 1983, and its report was presented to NCLIS in January 1984. The Source Evaluation Board accepted most of the panel's recommendations and incorporated them into its request for proposals. The panel's recommendations also had a clear impact on the archiving section of the "Land Remote Sensing Commercialization Act of 1984," Public Law 98-365, signed by the President on July 17, 1984, which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to transfer the Landsat system to the private sector. However, the information policy issues introduced by the report go far beyond the archiving issues discussed. As Dr. Atkinson points out in his preface to the report, the panel had to "be aware of the larger national policy issues in order to address those concerning archiving." As Elinor Hashim, Chairman of NCLIS, noted in her introduction, "Perhaps the most important policy consideration addressed in the Panel's report is the importance of protecting the needs of the public and insuring continued access to satellite data."

Single copies of the satellite data archiving report are available at no charge from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, General Services Administration Building, 7th and D Streets, S.W., Suite 3122, Washington, D.C. 20024. The Government Printing Office is also offering the report for sale.

Attachment: List of Panel Members

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PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

- PANEL ON THE INFORMATION POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF ARCHIVING SATELLITE DATA
- Richard C. Atkinson, Chancellor of the University of California at San Diego and former Director of the National Science Foundation, Chairman
 - William O. Baker, retired Chairman of the Board of Bell Laboratories
- Emilio Q. Daddario, lawyer with the firm of Wilkes, Artis, Hedrick and Lane; former Member of the U. S. House of Representatives; former President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and former Director of the Office of Technology Assessment
- Edward E. David, Jr., President of Exxon Research and Engineering Company and former Science Advisor to the President of the United States
- Ruth M. Davis, President of The Pymatuning Group, Inc., and former Assistant Secretary for Research Applications, U. S. Department of Energy
- Joseph W. Duncan, Corporate Economist and Chief Statistician, Dun and Bradstreet Corporation, and former Assistant Administrator for Statistical Policy, U. S. Office of Management and Budget
- Thomas J. Galvin, Dean of the School of Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh, and Past President of the American Library Association
- Lawrence W. Morley, President of Teledetection International, and former Director General of the Canadian Centre for Remote-Sensing, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
- Kenneth W. Ruggles, President of Global Weather Dynamics, Inc., and former Director of Operations, Fleet Numerical Weather Central, U. S. Navy
- Joan N. Warnow, Associate Director, Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics, and Chairman of the Joint Committee on Archives in Science and Technology
- Daniel De Simone, President of The Innovation Group, Inc., and former Deputy Director of the Office of Technology Assessment, Project Director

NCLIS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Carlos A. Cuadra, President of Cuadra Associates, Inc.

Francis Keppel, Senior Lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and former U. S. Commissioner of Education, Chairman

Jerald C. Newman, President and Chief Administrative Officer of the Bowery Savings Bank

Toni Carbo Bearman, Executive Director of NCLIS, Ex Officio